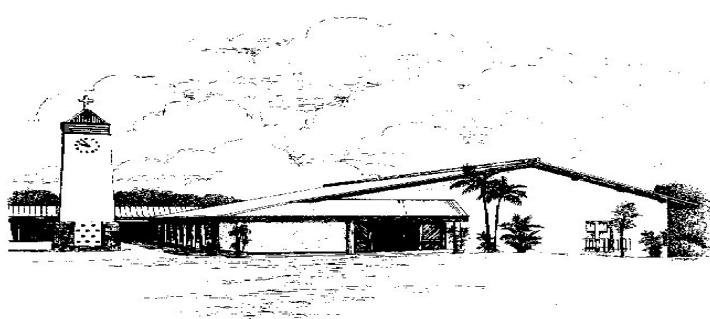


## **First United Protestant Church-UCC**

1350 Waianuenue Avenue  
Hilo, HI 96720  
808/935-5914  
[fupchilo@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:fupchilo@hawaiiantel.net)  
[www.fupchurch.org](http://www.fupchurch.org)



**Return Service Requested**



# **Welcome to First United Protestant Church Hilo, Hawaii**

In this season of Lent we welcome you and your loved ones (including children) to join us as we grow in faith, hope, and love. We are a part of the United Church of Christ and affiliated with the Hawai'i Conference of the UCC. Our roots in Hawai'i are the congregational church of the early missionaries. First United Protestant Church was organized as The First Foreign Church and Society in 1868.

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Sunday Worship Service   | 10:00 am                  |
| Communion  | First Sunday of the Month |
| Kosraean Mid-Week Service  | 7:30 pm Wednesdays        |
| Kosraean WCA Service   | 7:00 pm Fridays           |
| Kosraean Sunday Worship Service  | 1:30 pm Sundays           |
| Children's Ministry offered during worship Service                           |                           |
| Other education, youth programs, and activities offered throughout the week. |                           |
| Weekly schedules are listed in the Sunday worship bulletin.                  |                           |

*This is a place to BELONG... We're all in this together. No matter our history, circumstances, or goals, we're all human and all need love and acceptance. That's why the church exists and why you belong.*

*March 2019*

# *First News – Newsletter of First United Protestant Church, Hilo*

## **Sermon Themes for March**

**Sunday, March 3, 10:00 AM – Transfiguration Sunday; “Let Me Be Transfigured”** Scriptures: Exodus 24:12-18; Matthew 17:1-9. In the text from Exodus Moses and Joshua go further up Mount Sinai, so that Moses can enter the cloud of the Lord’s presence. When Moses reaches the top he is alone, exposed, and at risk on the mountain. There, he is asked to wait in complete obedience to be addressed and to receive a set of commandments. The point of his ascent up the mountain is not to see God physically, but to experience the presence of “the glory of the Lord.” In the text from the Gospel of Matthew Jesus is revealed as the greater Moses. Jesus is linked to Moses and Elijah to demonstrate he follows this same line of great prophets and will too be vindicated by God. His descent down the mountain should raise questions about our duty as disciples of Christ.

**Sunday, March 10, 10:00 AM – First Sunday in Lent; “Be Willing to Love Everyone: The Radical Call of Christ ”** Scripture: Acts 2:38-47. Repentance includes a change of mind that results in trusting God, this is, having faith. Peter’s words of promise were not just for Jewish folks who were listening, but “for all who are far off.” These words imply the inclusion of Gentiles, and a real effort to overcome barriers that excluded others from the message of Christ. The text teaches that ongoing life of the early church was characterized by a radicalized sense of community, and the foundational practices of this community were learned and demonstrated by the disciples from their experiences with Jesus.

**Sunday, March 17, 10:00 AM – Second Sunday in Lent; “No Dream is Out of Reach”** Scripture: Mark 12:41-44. In this text Jesus underlines the gap between a wealthy person’s offering and the widow’s gift of her whole livelihood. The large amounts contributed by the wealthy were probably visible to all, however Jesus summons his disciples and points out the widow’s offering, two of the smallest copper coins. While the widow gives her whole livelihood, the wealthy give from their surplus. Thus the great amounts that gain them honor are nothing compared to the offering made by the widow. The exemplary character of the widow’s offering lies in her willingness to give everything to God.

**Sunday, March 24, 10:00 AM – Third Sunday in Lent; “Do You Have Gusto for God?”** Scripture: Psalm 63:1-8. This psalm opens as if it were a lament, yet it is primarily seen as a song of confident expectation. The psalm is meant to help God’s people gain a sense of confidence during times of trouble. It expresses confidence that they will be able to return to the sanctuary to worship God. The psalm conveys that the highest privilege one can enjoy is to be welcomed as a member of the worshiping congregation. The references to “my soul” throughout the psalm express a personal devotion to God.

**Sunday, March 31, 10:00 AM – Fourth Sunday in Lent;** Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. In his second letter to the Corinthians Paul tells his listeners that Christ’s death is a transformative event that changes one’s life. He tells those who are listening that nothing is the same after that. In his letter Paul articulates that one of the first radical changes brought about by Christ’s death is the way people should live: no longer for themselves but for the one who died and was resurrected for them. Living for Christ and as Christ lived has revolutionized the world. Paul believed that this radical change was not only his experience as an apostle, but that of anyone who is in Christ. The crux of this text is Paul’s answer for those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart.

## In the Name of Truth, Life, and Love: A Monthly Message from the Pastor

I want to first begin this letter by welcoming you to the next chapter in the life of First United Protestant Church of Hilo! It is an exciting time to be part of this church! At the time I write it is less than 20 days before we leave for Hilo, but I know that by the time your reading this my family and I will likely have already arrived!! It never ceases to amaze me how fast time flies. It feels like yesterday I had just received an email from the Search Committee and began speaking with the leadership there about the possibility of being your new Settled Pastor. My hope is that the same sense of how I have experienced time fly by these past few months will also catapult us forward, allowing us to feel like we have been settled for months. I also want to extend my gratitude and appreciation for all that has been done to prepare for our arrival and make the transition to Hilo easier on us. As I work to get my bearings straight, please extend to me your understanding and grace.



As we begin this season of Lent I want to recommend a book that I will likely refer to over these next 40 days called, "*The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem*". The book is only 189 pages in reading length and is coauthored by two outstanding Jesus Scholars I admire, Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. I had read this book once before entering seminary and was required to read parts of it again during one of my classes that focused solely on the Gospels. In the book Borg and Crossan give a day-by-day account of the events that followed the last week of Jesus' life. What makes the book so important to the season of Lent is that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection cannot be understood without knowing more about the historical, social, political, and economic climate of the times in which he lived. Understanding the context of his life gives vital meaning to how we live out our faith as imitators and followers of Christ in the world today. I believe it is a good companion piece for Lent.

This year I would like to do something different for Ash Wednesday on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Instead of holding a worship service this year, I will be at the church from 9:00am to 6:00pm to offer traditional ashes and purple glitter ashes to mark the beginning of Lent to anyone who is passing by the church and feels called to stop by. The purple glitter ashes that will be offered this year are a sign of support for marginalized communities, like LGBTQ folks, that have been hurt and denied full equality by the faiths of their upbringing. The purple glitter ashes are a witness to an inclusive message of Christian love, a sign of one's vow to stand in solidarity with marginalized peoples, and an outward symbol that everyone is equal in God's eyes. What I want to stress is that there is not a wrong decision in the ashes you choose, it is a matter of preference and comfort. Also that day the sanctuary will be reserved as a place for meditation, prayer, and personal reflection. At the noon hour I would like to invite those who are free and available to join me in fellowship for a light brunch.

I have asked for the letter written on January 23, 2019 by General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, to be included in this month's newsletter. The name of the letter is "*A Pastoral Letter: That They May All Be One*," and I want to encourage everyone to please take time to read it. During a time when divisive rhetoric remains pervasive, contentious issues have caused stalemated disagreements, and the very humanity of people is continuously belittled before our eyes, John's letter stands as a poignant reminder of who Christ has called us to be. The United Church of Christ has long held to a spirit of unity that seeks to heal divisions in the body of Christ, and unite the greater Church so that we will engage together in a service of love to uplift others. John's letter is a call to strengthen our commitment to the beliefs of inclusion that gave birth to our denomination. I am inviting you to read his letter because the challenge put forth to the United Church of Christ is our challenge: to proclaim in word and action the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to work for reconciliation and unity, and to seek justice and liberation for all.

If there is anything you need please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [revchrisfupc@gmail.com](mailto:revchrisfupc@gmail.com) or on my cell at (314) 402-8167

-Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

## Correspondence from UCC General Minister and President



January 23, 2019

Dear Partners in Christ:

The vision of a body united - in purpose, in mission, in vision - is one that inspired the birth of our denomination. All of our spiritual impulses reverberate in an effort to call us into a more perfect union. Throughout our shared history as a people of faith and as a part of the Body of Christ, we have challenged ourselves to widen the circle of inclusion. Widening the circle has always come with growth pains as we shed old skins and welcome those whom we had previously thought unwelcome. And, with each new articulation of a more fully expressed Body of Christ we have realized new joy. Through it all we remain focused on the call to be one and committed to meeting the challenges inherent in that call.

We are now living in and through a season when the threats to unity are legion. Talk of walls that mark refugees as threats, labels like 'terrorist' that attach too easily to Muslims, overt racial bias that normalizes fear and hatred, a pandemic of abuse to women with the trigger reflex to forgive the men who author that abuse have turned America into a land many of us no longer recognize and that too many of us are finding harder and harder to reconcile with our faith.

Now more than ever, the Holy Spirit of the Living God and the Risen Christ is seeking to partner with anyone committed to unifying the human community. The gospel mandate to love our neighbor as we love ourselves resonates deep within us. It calls for the better angels among and within us to always resist impulses to hate, to condemn, to vilify, or to castigate. In such a time as this, the United Church of Christ's call to fulfill the prayer of Jesus, that they may all be one, stands as an urgent mandate to disciples who envision a just world for all.

United with you in God's service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Dorhauer".

The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer  
General Minister and President

*Officers of the Church*  
Rev. John C. Dorhauer  
General Minister and President

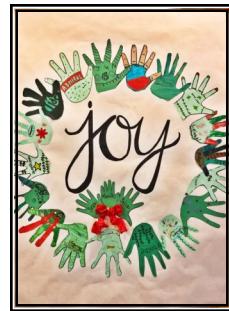
Rev. Traci D. Blackmon  
Associate General Minister  
Justice and Local Church Ministries

Rev. James A. Moos  
Associate General Minister  
Global Engagement and Operations  
Co-executive for Global Ministries

## Youth Happenings



• On February 23-24 the youth held their first dinner and a movie sleepover event at the church. The youth had a delicious spaghetti dinner that Uncle Bob cooked and enjoyed tasty dessert items provided by Aunty Jane. Happily joining us were Pastor Kent and Aunty Priscilla. After dinner we enjoyed watching *The Croods* in the sanctuary. We played a variety of games such as Twister and UNO and slept in the church. In the morning, we enjoyed a delicious breakfast cooked by Uncle Bob. Aunty June and Aunty Royalyn provided Pop-tarts and hot cocoa. During the Sunday service, the youth sang a touching song for Pastor Kent and Aunty Priscilla. We were joined by members from the 150th Anniversary Choir and members of the congregation. Pastor Kent and Aunty Priscilla were so surprised! It was a fun weekend. Thank you to everyone who helped make it a success. We are looking forward to the next event.



- For the month of March we will be having a Musubi Madness food drive. There will be a box in the sanctuary for people to donate bags of rice, cans of spam, and packages of nori. We will also be accepting any other non-perishable food items since it will all be going to the Hawai'i Island Food Basket. Please donate what you can.
- We would like to give a shout out to Tyler Dela Cruz who has the role of young Princess Ka'iulani in the play "The Last Princess" directed by Jackie Pualani





Reverend Ron and Priscilla

Lead your flock, offering not only religious instruction but often friendship and personal guidance. He became a symbol of strength and leadership not only for FUPC Congregation but for the wider community as well. Kosrae Hilo Congregational Church, Christian Endeavor, Women Christian Association, Sunday school and community express our heartfelt thanks for all of the help that you have extended. There were times we have been having obstacles to weave through yet having you both express your views and advice were certainly helpful. We have taken your advice to heart and we are happy to say that we are copying bit by bit.

Enjoy your new found freedom. Farewell to you both as you take this next step in your life. May you always be happy and healthy.



Me Ke Aloha Pumehana,

Pastu Nixon, Pastu Danny, Nipastu Fay and Nipstu Tulpe

Kosrae Hilo Women Christian Association

Please join us as we Celebrates the 5<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary and Women's Day on March 8, 9, & 10. Place and time to be determined.



# Welcome to this Sacred Prayer Corner

Light a candle  
to make your prayers  
visible and real.  
Behold the Light and Believe!  
Written prayer requests will be lifted  
in prayer by this Church Ohana.  
May all who hold a prayer in their  
heart find Comfort and Peace!



Please include the following people and situations in your prayers:

|                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sheldon Asejo                   | Mike Gardner            |
| Maria Valido & the Queja Family | Michael Russell         |
| Doris Toma                      | Lei Semana & Family     |
| Rev. Nixon & Fay Jack           | Marlo & Ella Fontanilla |
| Aulani Humphers                 | Royal Solmerin          |
| Janet Lang                      | Rev. Richard Alger      |
| Cori Dela Cruz                  | Desiree Family          |
| Eilen Gertz Family              |                         |

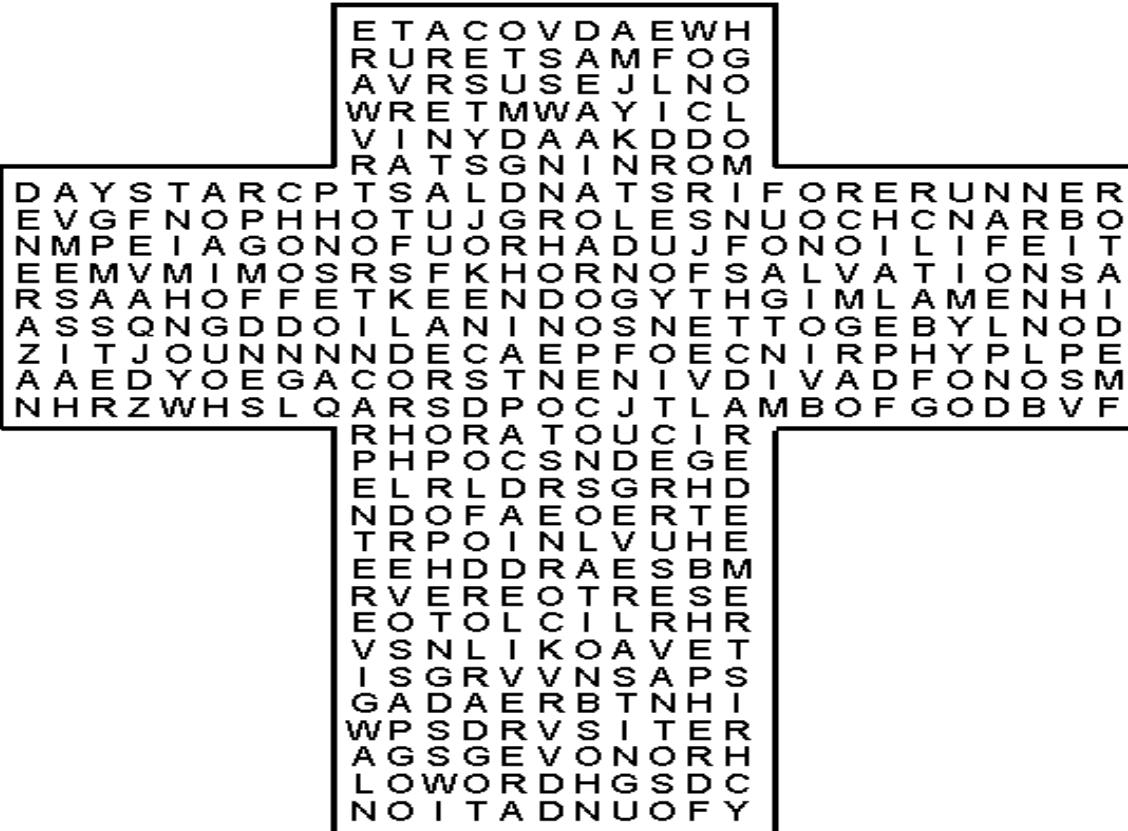
Happy March Birthday to the following Friends and Members



|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| McCharles Tumaneng (1st) | Jodie Payao (10th)      |
| Jonathan Payao (10th)    | Pedro Queja (13th)      |
| Priscilla Kent (15th)    | Heather Padilla (20th)  |
| Rowena Tumaneng (21st)   | Gabriel Benjamin (27th) |
| Kaylana Alokoa (27th)    |                         |

# Food & Fun

But Whom Do You Say That I AM?



Advocate  
Almighty  
Alpha and Omega  
Amen  
Apostle  
Beloved Son  
Bishop  
Branch  
Bread  
Captain  
Carpenter  
Chosen  
Christ  
Consolation  
Cornerstone  
Counselor  
Day Star  
Deliverer

Door  
Emmanuel  
Everlasting  
Faithful and True  
First and Last  
Forerunner  
Foundation  
Governor  
Head  
High Priest  
Holy and Just One  
Horn of Salvation  
I AM  
Jesus  
Judge  
King  
King of Kings  
Lamb of God

Lawgiver  
Life  
Light  
Lion of Judah  
Lord  
Lord of Lords  
Master  
Master  
Mediator  
Messiah  
Mighty God  
Morning Star  
Nazarene  
Only Begotten Son  
Passover  
Priest  
Prince of Peace  
Prophet

Redeemer  
Resurrection  
Rock  
Savior  
Servant  
Shepherd  
Son of David  
Son of God  
Son of Man  
Vine  
Way  
Wonderful  
Word

## Tofu Broccoli Quiche

From the Kitchen of the late Dorothy Kataoka

- |                                 |                            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 (9") baked pie shell          | 1C. Half-and-half          |
| 1/2 C. frozen broccoli, chopped | 1C. Tofu, squeezed tightly |
| 1/2C. ham, julienne strips      | 1/2 t. onion powder        |
| 4oz. shredded Swiss cheese      | Dash of pepper             |

In the bottom of a baked pie shell, sprinkle ham strips, broccoli and cheese. In the blender, beat eggs well and add remaining ingredients. Pour egg mixture over the filled pie crust. Bake in a 350 degree oven 35 to 40 minutes or until knife inserted an inch from the center comes out clean. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.



All recipies from Heirlooms from our Church Family, 1998.



## NEWS FROM THE PEWS.....

### For Your Calendar...

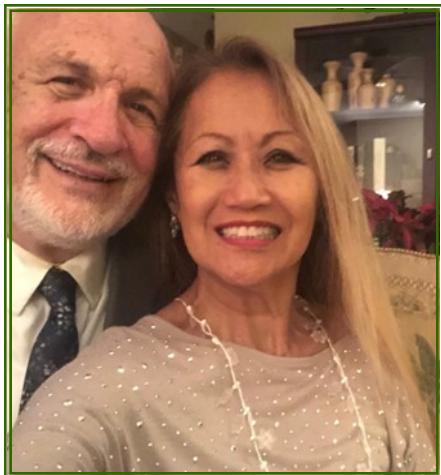
Music in the Sanctuary....

March 8 & 9, Friday (7pm) & Sat.(3pm), Harmony on Tap Concerts to benefit "Self Discovery Through Art"

March 8, 9, 10 Kosrae Hilo WCA celebrates Anniversary and Women's Day

March 11, 4pm to 6pm Cindy Debus Master Class

April 13, Saturday, noon to 4:00pm, Chieko Garrett, Piano Recital



### A Note from Pastor Ron and Priscilla

Thank you for your love through the years. We enjoyed our partnership in ministry. It was an exciting six years! We will cherish our last Sunday memories: Vicki singing, the bold sound from the Kosraean men, the classy presentation of the score to Jeremiah 29.11, the children singing and the surprise choir that spilled out from the corner of the church and joining in. The food was ono as usual. Thank you for your generous monetary gifts to us and the leis, hugs and tears. We were touched by all of your notes of gratitude and love. And you gave us bags of our favorite candies. We will miss our time together but we carry you all in our hearts. We feel your love. Aloha, Priscilla & Ron

## COUNCIL KORNER

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11

The FUPC Council meets every third Sunday of the month. We will share with everyone current events that are happening through the newsletter and by posting the monthly meeting minutes on the Narthex bulletin board.  
**HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE COUNCIL KORNER**

On Sunday, February 24, 2019 it was our time at First United Protestant church to say A Hui Hou and Malama Pono to Rev. Kent and Priscilla. We celebrated the release of our Interim Pastor with a beautiful service, followed by a wonderful fellowship on the lanai. Thank you to everyone who was able to be a part of this memorable day. We pray for God's Blessings as Rev. Kent and Priscilla enter their next chapter in the book of life.



Please feel free to approach/share with me or any of your Council members suggestions, questions or concerns that you would like to address in your church life. You can also contact me at: [debbiefupc@gmail.com](mailto:debbiefupc@gmail.com)

God Bless You, Debbie Sasan-Moderator

# *He Walks with me and he Talks with me.....*

## **SERVANT LEADERSHIP PARTICIPATION**

**March 2019**

### USHERS/GREETERS

Zandrix Queja & McCharles Tumaneng

### COMMUNION PREP

Joanne Pocsidio

### LITURGISTS/LAY READERS

March 3 Royalyn Solmerin  
March 10 June Dela Cruz  
March 17 Jeremy Agag  
March 24 Danny Dizon  
March 31 Krizsha Tumaneng

### COMMUNION SERVERS

Bob Ahia  
Debbie Sasan  
Gail Kagawa  
Jeremy Agag

### COFFEE HOUR

March 3 Extended Coffee Hour: Pot Luck  
March 10 Royalyn Solmerin  
March 17 Bob Ahia  
March 24 Kosraean Fellowship  
March 31 Betty Nekoba

### ACOLYTE

Phoebe Wyatt  
March 24 Olsen Melsamel